



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

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Spy Cameras Capture Wildlife on Film

Lava Beds National Monument is seeing great results from experiments with remote cameras hidden in the wilderness. Candid photography of foxes, bats, and interesting birds has been possible because animals usually shy of photographers have no fear of tiny cameras hidden in rocks, caves, or hollow trees.

When it comes to wild animals, the Klamath and Tulelake basins are great places to find them. The flocks of migrating birds in area Wildlife Refuges tempt visitors year round to come birdwatch or hunt. Backyards and farm fields often attract rabbits, raccoons, skunks, herds of deer, or the occasional coyote. Yet there are dozens of more elusive creatures hiding just out of sight.

Lava Beds National Monument has many such animals, like red and grey foxes, long-tailed weasels, bobcats, and 15 kinds of bats. These animals tend to shy away from populated areas, and live truly wild lives.

“It might be cheating, but we’re getting great pictures of animals we sometimes don’t see in person for years at a time,” says Superintendent Craig Dorman.

These images will be used to track how wildlife uses different habitat, and might even record evidence of animals not thought to live in the area. Watch out, Bigfoot!

Lava Beds National Monument’s mission is to preserve and protect the significant natural and cultural resources associated with Lava Beds and provide for the public understanding, education and enjoyment of these resources, including wilderness resources and research. For more information, please contact the monument by phone, on the Web at www.nps.gov/labe, or visit them at their beautiful new Visitor Center.